

Inventor: John C. Reed
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(a) DNA encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in
SEQ ID NOs:2, 4 or 6, or

(b) DNA that hybridizes to the DNA of (a) under
[moderately stringent] ~~high stringency~~ conditions, wherein
said DNA encodes biologically active NAC, or

(c) DNA degenerate with respect to either (a) or (b)
above, wherein said DNA encodes biologically active NAC.

2. (Amended) A nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein
said nucleic acid is no more than 1035 nucleotides and hybridizes
under high stringency conditions to the NAC coding portion of any
of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and 5.

8. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising at least 15
nucleotides up to 1035 nucleotides capable of specifically
hybridizing with a the nucleotide sequence set forth in any of
SEQ ID NOs:1, 3 and 5.

38. (Amended) A method of modulating the level of apoptosis
in a cell, comprising the steps of:

- a) introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a NAC
according to claim 1 into the cell; and
b) expressing said NAC in said cell, wherein the
expression of said NAC modulates apoptosis in said cell.

Please add new claim 66 as follows:

66. (New) A functional fragment of the nucleic acid aid
according to claim 1, wherein said functional fragment comprises